

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041683
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
XMT AMEMBASSY BANGUI

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GENEVA FOR USDEL TO HRC

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING FEB. 16, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON
BRIEFING FEBRUARY 16, 1978:

Q: KEN, DO YOU HAVE A MORE DEFINITIVE ANSWER THAN YOU DID
YESTERDAY ABOUT THE RHODESIA SETTLEMENT? YOU SAID IT WAS
BASED ON PRELIMINARY INFORMATION.

A: GEORGE, I DON'T HAVE A DEFINITIVE STATEMENT. THERE IS A
STATEMENT I CAN MAKE.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 041683

THE UNITED STATES' OBJECTIVE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND IN
RHODESIA IS TO SUPPORT THE CITIZENS OF THAT AREA IN THEIR
QUEST FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF BASIC POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

IN THE CASE OF RHODESIA, OUR SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE IS TO WORK
WITH THE BRITISH FOR A LASTING SOLUTION WHICH GUARANTEES

THE INDEPENDENCE AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY.

WHAT WAS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY WAS AN AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN PRINCIPLES OF A CONSTITUTION. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE TEXT OF THAT AGREEMENT.

ON THE BASIS OF WHAT WE KNOW, IT REPRESENTS ONLY A PART OF A MUCH LARGER AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE SET OF ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MUST BE WORKED OUT PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE TRANSITION, LET ALONE INDEPENDENCE.

UNTIL WE SEE A TEXT AND HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER IT CAREFULLY, WE WILL HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT.

Q: KEN, DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU WITHDRAW YOUR PRELIMINARY JUDGMENT YESTERDAY THAT THE PLAN FALLS SHORT OF THE OBJECTIVES SET FORWARD IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN?

A: OZZIE, WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY WAS NOT MEANT TO BE A JUDGMENT. WHAT I STARTED OFF WITH YESTERDAY WAS THAT WE HAD NOT SEEN IT. WE COULD NOT REALLY GIVE ANY KIND OF A DEFINITIVE STATEMENT UNTIL WE HAD, AND THAT IS REALLY THE POSITION THAT WE ARE REITERATING TODAY IN A LITTLE FULLER FORM.

Q: BUT YOU ARE NOT NOW SAYING THAT IT FALLS SHORT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 041683

PRINCIPLES?

A: I AM NOT SAYING ANYTHING MORE THAN WHAT I HAVE SAID IN THE STATEMENT.

Q: YOU DID SAY IT YESTERDAY.

A: WE GOT INTO A LONG DISCUSSION, A SOMEWHAT SPECULATIVE DISCUSSION, BEYOND REALLY WHAT MY BASIC STATEMENT WAS, WHICH WAS THAT WE HAD JUST SEEN PRELIMINARY REPORTS AND COULDN'T REALLY JUDGE.

Q: ALL I WANT TO DO IS CLARIFY WHAT YOUR POSITION IS, BECAUSE IT IS DIFFERENT TODAY THAN WHAT IT WAS YESTERDAY. THERE ARE MORE WORDS BUT LESS SUBSTANCE, AND YOUR SUBSTANCE YESTERDAY WAS THAT IT FALLS SHORT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. YOU ARE NOT SAYING THAT TODAY.

A: BUT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I WANTED TO COME ACROSS AND WHICH PERHAPS DID NOT WAS THAT WE WERE NOT INTERESTED IN DICTATING ANYTHING. AND IF THAT IS THE IMPRESSION I LEFT, I WOULD WITHDRAW THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE DICTATING

ANYTHING. BUT AS FAR AS THE STATEMENT TO THE EXTENT THAT
WE CAN MAKE A STATEMENT, YOU HAVE IT RIGHT HERE.

Q: KEN, REGARDLESS OF WHAT MAY COME OUT OF THIS AGREEMENT
IN THE LONG RUN, DOES THE U.S. INSIST THAT THE TERMS OF
THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT COULD BE
THE BASIS FOR A DURABLE SETTLEMENT?

A: JUAN, I AM REALLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO ANY FUR-
THER TODAY THAN WHAT I HAVE ALREADY GIVEN YOU RIGHT HERE,
JUST THIS TEXT. AND, AS I SAY, WE WILL HAVE NO FURTHER
COMMENT UNTIL WE DO HAVE A CHANCE TO STUDY THE TEXT.

Q: BUT, I MEAN, WILL YOU STICK TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN,
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 041683

NO MATTER WHAT?

A: I THINK ALL I CAN DO IS GO BACK TO THIS TEXT AND SAY
WHAT OUR GENERAL VIEW IS BASED ON WHAT I HAVE RIGHT HERE.
AND ANY FURTHER THAN THAT, I CAN'T SAY RIGHT NOW.

Q: KEN, WHAT IS THE FATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND THAT
WAS TO BE AMASSED FOR PROVIDING PENSIONS FOR CIVIL SER-
VANTS, AND SO ON. IS THERE ANYWAY THAT THE PRESENT
NEGOTIATORS IN SALISBURY CAN QUALIFY FOR ANY OF THAT
MONEY?

A: LARS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THAT. I JUST
DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION. VANCE

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